

What is claimed is:

1. A plasma display panel comprising:

5 a front substrate having an inner face and a back substrate having an inner face opposing the inner face of the front substrate with a discharge space in between;

a plurality of row electrode pairs extending in a row direction and regularly arranged in a column direction to form display lines on the inner face of the front substrate;

10 a dielectric layer covering the row electrode pairs on the inner face of the front substrate;

a protective layer covering the dielectric layer on the inner face of the front substrate;

15 a plurality of column electrodes extending in the column direction and regularly arranged in the row direction to intersect with the row electrode pairs;

a partition wall having dividing walls;

20 unit light-emission areas formed at the intersections of the row electrode pairs and the column electrodes in the discharge space, and each defined by the partition wall, and each partitioned by the dividing wall into a first discharge area facing mutually opposing portions of the row electrodes constituting each of the row electrode pairs and providing for a discharge produced between the row electrodes, and a second discharge area facing a portion
25 of one row electrode in the row electrode pair initiating a discharge in association with the column electrode and providing for the discharge produced between the column electrode and the portion

of the one row electrode;

a communicating element provided between the first discharge area and the second discharge area for communication from the second discharge area to the first discharge area; and

5 a secondary electron emissive layer formed of a material of a coefficient of secondary electron emission higher than that of the protective layer and provided on a portion of an inner face of the dielectric layer facing the second discharge area.

10 2. A plasma display panel according to claim 1, further comprising an additional portion provided on a portion of an inner face of the dielectric layer facing the second discharge area, and formed in contact with the partition wall, protruding from the back substrate and defining the unit light-emission areas, to block the
15 second discharge area from the unconnected unit-light emission areas adjacent to the second discharge area, wherein the secondary electron emissive layer is formed in a recess formed by the additional portion.

20 3. A plasma display panel according to claim 2, wherein the additional portion includes one of a black-colored light absorption layer and a dark-colored light absorption layer.

4. A plasma display panel according to claim 1, wherein one of
25 a black-colored pigment and a dark-colored pigment is mixed into the secondary electron emissive layer.

5. A plasma display panel according to claim 1,

wherein each of the row electrodes constituting the row electrode pair has an electrode body extending in the row direction, and transparent electrode portions each extending from the electrode body in the column direction for each unit light-emission area, and each facing the other of the paired transparent electrode portions of the paired row electrodes with a discharge gap in between in an area opposing the first discharge area; and

wherein the transparent electrode portion of the one row electrode in the row electrode pair initiating a discharge in association with the column electrode extends in the direction opposite to the other row electrode of the paired row electrodes to form a projecting portion and a discharge is produced between the projecting portion of the transparent electrode and the column electrode in the second discharge area.

6. A plasma display panel according to claim 1,

wherein each of the row electrodes constituting the row electrode pair has an electrode body extending in the row direction, and transparent electrode portions each extending from the electrode body in the column direction for each unit light-emission area, and each facing the other of the paired transparent electrode portions of the paired row electrodes with a discharge gap in between in an area opposing the first discharge area; and

wherein a portion of the electrode body of the one row electrode in the row electrode pair initiating a discharge in association with the column electrode extends in the direction opposite to the

other row electrode of the paired row electrodes, and a discharge is produced between the portion of the electrode body and the column electrode in the second discharge area.

5 7. A plasma display panel according to claim 2, wherein the communication element comprises a clearance formed in a portion of the additional portion opposing the dividing wall provided a partition between the first discharge area and a second discharge area.

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8. A plasma display panel according to claim 1, wherein the communication element comprises a groove formed in the dividing wall provided a partition between the first discharge area and a second discharge area.

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9. A plasma display panel according to claim 1, further comprising a phosphor layer formed in only the first discharge area and emitting light by means of a discharge.

20 10. A plasma display panel according to claim 1, further comprising an MgO layer formed on the back substrate in the second discharge area.